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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

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Why it is time to clean, desilt exposed lakebeds this summer to ensure groundwater recharge

THE LOWER DEPTHS

Multiple lakebeds exposed as water dries up

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Bengaluru's scorching heat and below-average rainfall last year have led to many lakes in the city drying up. With water gone and lakebeds exposed, city-based activists are of the view that it is time for the lakes department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to clean and de-silt these waterbodies to ensure effective groundwater recharge after inflow during the upcoming monsoon.

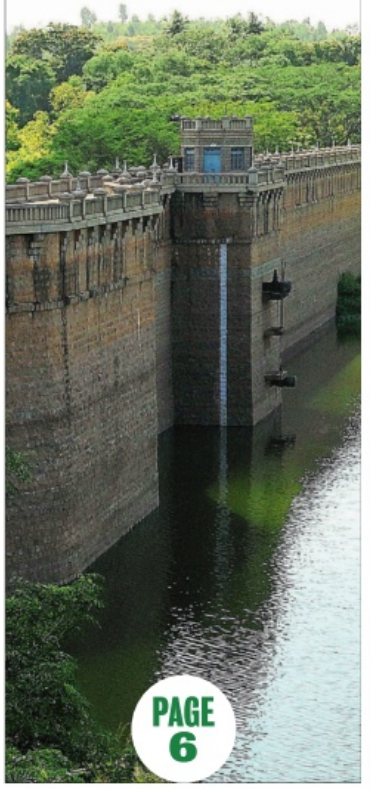
"Completely dry lakes are not an uncommon occurrence in Bengaluru anymore. Currently multiple lakebeds are visible as water has completely dried up. However, the sludge accumulated due to years of sewage entering the water body is also visible. With so much sludge, lakes will not be able to recharge the groundwater table. BBMP should de-silt these waterbodies as it will be cost effective," said a city-based lake activist.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

"Desilting will not only help in groundwater recharge and increase storage capacity, but will also improve water quality
— Soundararajan Rajagopalan, resident near Doddakallasandra Lake

Big dip

Water in state's reservoirs down by 22%



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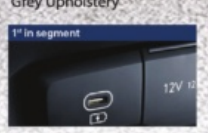
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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Pet Fiesta

Calling all pet lovers! Don't miss out on the unique celebration of furry friends at the Pet Fiesta hosted at Jayamahal Palace. Get ready for a day filled with wagging tails, wet noses, and lots of love celebrating our beloved companions. From pet parades to costume contests, agility courses to pet-friendly vendors, aquascaping to nutrition zones, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Come and connect with other pet lovers in the community. **When: April 7, 11 am onwards Where: Jayamahal Palace**

02 Rhythm and expressions

Explore your artistic voice and develop your unique style through a Bharatanatyam workshop. Dive into the origins of the dance, its traditional costumes, and the musical accompaniment. Learn the history, significance, its place in Indian culture, and the fundamental steps and postures, known as adavus. These include steps such as Tatta Adavu, Natta Adavu, and Mandi Adavu, which form the building blocks of the dance vocabulary. Practice Abhinaya, a crucial component of Bharatanatyam, where one emotes using their face, eyes, and body language to convey a range of emotions, stories, and themes. **When: April 7 to May 19; Where: Small World Koramangala**

03 Dive into music

Get ready for an extraordinary evening of mesmerising sounds and distinctive electronic mixes by techno artist Deepesh Sharma, a pioneer in the electronic music scene, and spend an amazing Sundowner evening overlooking the picturesque view of the Bangalore greens of Cubbon Park and the hearty M Chinnaswamy Stadium. **When: April 7, 5 pm onwards; Where: One8 Commune**

Festive surge: Hefty bus fares dampen spirits

Ugadi travel turns expensive with soaring prices and fully booked buses

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File photo of Majestic Bus Stand

During this time of the year, Bengalureans embark on a journey to their hometowns to celebrate Ugadi, the first festival of the lunar calendar. With Ugadi falling on Tuesday this time and with a long leave ahead, individuals are eager to go home. However, many private bus operators are capitalising on this surge by significantly raising their fares, making travel quite costly, especially for those who opt for last-minute bookings.

The current fares reflect substantial increases. For example, the fare for a bus trip from Bengaluru to Shivamogga, previously ranging from Rs 450 to Rs 600, has surged to Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250. Similarly, fares for trips to Hubballi have risen from Rs 600 to Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,800 to Rs 3,000 this weekend. Likewise, ticket costs to Mangaluru have escalated from Rs 850 to Rs 900 to Rs 1,400 to Rs 1,800, while fares for Dharwad have surged from Rs 800 to Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 to Rs 3,000. Other notable increases include Udupi, with fares rising from Rs 600 to Rs 950 to Rs 1,700 to Rs 2,200; Davanagere from Rs 450 to Rs 700 to Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500; Belagavi from Rs 750 to Rs 1,200 to Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,500; Chikkamagaluru from Rs 650 to Rs 800 to Rs 1,100 to Rs 1,300; and Sirsi from Rs 650 to Rs 850 to Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500.

To accommodate the increased demand, KSRTC officials have deployed an additional 2,275 buses between April 6 and 8. However, due to advanced bookings, most of these buses have already been reserved. Some commuters have raised concerns about inflated ticket prices on online booking platforms. Since Friday evening, the Majestic bus stand has been crowded with thousands of passengers rushing to catch their buses. The surrounding roads leading to the bus stand are congested, prompting officials to advise people to depart early to avoid missing their buses.

Kartik Hebbar, a frequent traveller, expressed his frustration, stating, "I usually pay Rs 850 for a trip to Hubballi from Bengaluru, but now I'm forced to pay Rs 1,800 for a private bus, and even train tickets are unavailable."

> **"Given that not everyone can opt for govt buses, private operators are capitalising on commuters plight**
> – Karthik Hebbar, frequent traveller

Concerned commuters are questioning the state government's inaction in curbing these rising prices. "The state government frequently announces its intention to conduct surprise checks and regulate private bus operators, ensuring they do not inflate ticket prices during festivals. Yet, these proclamations appear to remain on paper, as no concrete measures have been taken. Many individuals prefer to travel during the weekends, but with such exorbitant rates, it becomes a challenging prospect. They ought to establish an upper ceiling for bus ticket prices to prevent private operators from charging excessive amounts for specific destinations. Violators should face penalties. Given that not everyone can opt for government buses, private operators are capitalising on commuters' predicaments," he added. In contrast, a bus operator offered a different perspective, explaining, "The buses have to return empty from their destination, which will be a cost to the operators' exchequer, and hence the prices have to be increased. Moreover, this period marks a significant surge in demand for bus tickets, naturally driving up prices due to heightened interest."

No more fleeing, feed pigeons freely again

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The animal husbandry department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) took down the signage at Race Course Junction on Friday that prohibited pigeon feeding and imposed penalties on violators. The signage was initially erected by a BBMP contractor roughly a week ago.

The signage erected at the junction imposes a fine of Rs 200 on offenders with the view of protecting the Rs 1 crore renovation by BBMP. This comes in the background of BBMP's Roads and Infrastructure department considering formalising the signage as they were getting complaints from motorists. On March 30, BM reported about the issue in the article 'Pigeons to feast or flee?' narrating BBMP's consideration to formalise the pigeon feeding ban after the signage was put up and animal activists' views on this matter.

Bangalore Mirror
Pigeons to feast or flee?
BBMP considers formalising pigeon feeding ban after signage; sparks controversy amongst animal activists

BM's report on March 30 narrates BBMP's consideration to formalise the pigeon feeding ban and activists' opinions on it

Speaking to BM, a senior BBMP official from the animal husbandry department said, "We removed the board on April 5, and it was done by the superintendent engineer of the east zone. Since this case falls under the forest department, we have not given any notice."

However, the move does not clarify BBMP's stance on pigeon feeding. Previously, BBMP had highlighted that there is a provision in the municipality rules for preventing feeding. The provision allows a prohibition on feeding animals that cause a public nuisance. However, animal activists have been opposing the move, stating that there are no grounds for such penalties and that the diseases supposedly spread by pigeons are not listed by the National Disease Control Board or the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Murders most foul

State records 195 murders in 2024; sudden quarrels, revenge and enmity are among major causes

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Karnataka recorded 195 murders in the first two months of 2024. According to the police, five of these were committed for 'gain', seven over property disputes, one each due to personal vendetta and sexual jealousy.

As many as 12 murders took place in the state due to revenge and enmity; 13 due to sudden quarrel and 136 due to other causes. Two murders were said to be human sacrifice.

The state also recorded 463 attempts to murder: 11 attempts to murder were for dowry, 49 for revenge and enmity, 10 for personal vendetta.

As many as 22 cases were registered for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

A senior police official informed BM that most of the murders are for love, revenge and money.

"There are also cases related to sudden provocation and drunken fights. But mostly cases are related to sexual jealousy and property disputes," he said.

He added that the conviction rate in murder cases is as low as 20 to 30 percent because of "long delayed trials".

Recently, authorities apprehended five individuals on charges of attempted murder for allegedly assaulting an auditor employed at a private firm in the city. Among the accused were two of the victim's coworkers, who purportedly orchestrated the attack due to a disagreement. The incident gained traction after a video circulated on social media, depicting the victim being brutally assaulted with an iron rod in broad daylight on a busy road near Kalyan Nagar.

Prompt police intervention ensued after identifying the victim, Suresh, and obtaining a formal complaint. Suresh, employed at a dairy company, had reportedly faced tension with colleagues Umashankar and Vinesh over workplace matters, leading to the assault.

As many as 12 murders took place in the state due to revenge and enmity; 13 due to sudden quarrel and 136 due to other causes. Two murders were said to be human sacrifice

Investigations revealed that Suresh's insistence on prompt stock clearance had strained relations with his coworkers, who felt pressured. Umashankar, seeking retribution, enlisted the help of Sandeep and hired assailants to carry out the attack. The swift response from Hennur police station resulted in the arrest of all suspects.

Over 400 cases of crimes against SC/ST in first 2 months of 2024

In the first two months of 2024, Karnataka recorded more than 400 cases of crime against Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

According to Karnataka state police data, 412 cases were recorded in January and February for crimes against SC and ST, with 208 cases reported in January and 204 cases reported in February.

The state registered 24 murders, 35 rapes, 14 kidnappings, and 339 cases under the Offences under the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 (if the victim is SC).

In January, 17 rape cases were reported, and in February, 22 were reported. Additionally, 10 murders were reported in January, and 13 were reported in February.

Advocate Sivamanithan stated that while atrocities and crimes have always existed in similar numbers, there is now an increase in reported cases because people are more aware of their constitutional rights.

"The crimes against SC and ST have always existed. Even 10 years ago, murders and rapes of Dalit women were happening; the only difference now is that people are becoming more aware of their rights and know they can file an FIR," he said.

He added that there were instances in the past where police were unwilling to file FIRs, but with the provision in the Atrocities Act stating that failure to file an FIR would be considered dereliction of duty, the number of FIRs being registered has increased.

"Even if FIRs are being filed, the conviction rate in these cases remains low," said Sivamanithan.

He also emphasised the need to update the Atrocities Act.

"The Act needs to be revised periodically. The pattern of exploitation and abuse of lower-caste people has changed in today's India. It is not the same as it was in the 1980s, and therefore, it is necessary for the Atrocities Act to include new provisions," he said.

Ahna Prakash

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Railway doubling project lags, only 25% completed

Despite efforts, completion rates vary across Yeshwanthpur–Channasandra and Baiyappanahalli–Channasandra routes; deadline extensions possible

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The Yeshwanthpur-Channasandra track doubling project, spanning 48 km and undertaken at Rs 498.73 crore, has reached a completion rate of only 25 per cent. In contrast, the Baiyappanahalli-Channasandra track doubling initiative, covering 21.70 km and with an allocated budget of Rs 314.10 crore, has made significant strides, achieving a progress rate of 55 per cent.

A senior official said that the South Western Railways had granted approval for yards for the Chikkabanavara-Baiyappanahalli stretch. "The tenders have been issued for various tasks including earthworks, small bridges, track works, station building, and OHE electrical utility shifting works. These undertakings are projected to be finalised by December 2024. As for the timeline, it is anticipated that the Yeshwanthpur-Yeshwanthpur bypass-Lottegollahalli-Hebbal stretch (8.1 km) will be accomplished by June 2024 within the fiscal year 2024-25. Additionally, the Yeshwanthpur bypass to Lottegollahalli's fourth line (2.5 km) is slated for completion by December 2024. The Hebbal-Baiyappanahalli stretch (11.6 km) is also targeted for completion by December 2024," he said.

He said that in the Baiyappanahalli-Hosur doubling works (48 km), the Carmelaram-Heelalige section (10.5 km) commenced in February. Tenders have been awarded for earthworks, small bridges, ballast track link, OHE between Anekal-Bellandur road, utility shifting, and major bridges between Baiyappanahalli-Bellandur road. Within the fiscal year 2023-24, it is expected that the Bellandur-Carmelaram (3.5 km) and Bellandur road and Huskur new yard and Maranayakanahalli-Anekal road (6.9 km) will be completed. Furthermore, in the fiscal year 2024-28, works between Maranayakanalli-Hosur (7.8 km) are projected to be finalized along with Baiyappanahalli-Bellandur (9 km), and Heelalige-Anekal road (10.3 km) by the end of December.

The civil works for Corridor-2, spanning Chikkabanavara-Yeshwanthpur-Baiyappanahalli (25 km), commenced following the appointment of a contractor on August 26, 2022. Similarly, for Corridor-4 covering Rajanakunte-Yelahanka-Baiyappanahalli-Heelalige (46.24 km), a contractor was appointed on 30.12.2023, initiating preliminary work. Tenders have been issued for the procurement of Rolling Stock (Coaches) under a Public-Private Partnership, with three qualifying organizations. Furthermore, significant financial agreements have been secured. The project's completion target is December 2027, with concerted efforts underway to ensure adherence to the timeline.

> **"The tenders have been issued for various tasks including earthworks, small bridges, track works, station building, and OHE electrical utility shifting works. These undertakings are projected to be finalised by Dec 2024**
>
> – Official, South Western Railways

Regarding rail routing schemes, the Government of Karnataka and the Railway Departments sanctioned the Baiyappanahalli-Hosur and Yeshwantpur-Channasandra railway double-track construction via K-Ride on a cost-sharing basis in June 2020.

Double delay for double-decker

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Bengaluru is likely to see further delays in the introduction of double-deckers on roads. Owing to the model code of conduct, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has deferred finalising the tender until May. The proposal for procuring 10 electric double-deckers is likely to face more delay. The second tender issued by BMTC won't be finalised until May. According to BMTC, as of now, they haven't received any bids.

BMTC had floated a tender for the selection of a service provider for the procurement, operation, and maintenance of 10 double-decker AC electric buses on a Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and State Urban Transport Fund (SUTF) of the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) on March 14. The last date for bidding for the tender was announced as April 10. However, due to the model code of conduct in place, BMTC would not be able to finalise the tenders. "We floated the second tender for the procurement of double deckers in March and the last date for bidding ends on April 10. But we won't be allowed to finalise the tender until the model code of conduct is over. But, as of now, we haven't received any bids," said a senior BMTC official.

The first tender for the double-decker was not finalised due to technical reasons. BMTC received a single bid from Chennai-based OHM Global Mobility Limited, and according to BMTC sources, the bid was for Rs 102.5 per km. However, the tender was cancelled owing to high bids, and BMTC is now looking for bids lower than that.

As per the tender, BMTC would run these buses on select routes and assure 150 km per day over 350 days, accumulating to 52,500 km in a year. Estimated, each double-decker bus could carry 65 passengers at a time. Currently, BMTC has proposed running these buses from Majestic to Shivajinagar, Shivajinagar to Market, and Majestic to Attibele. The operator is also responsible for setting up the charging infrastructure in bus depots. They are also required to bear common area electricity charges of maintenance depots in case of dedicated depots and in case of Hybrid depots, the common electricity charges shall be paid by the service provider on a prorated basis (based on actual departures).

The Operator shall also undertake to prepare the project for availing green revenues and get the buses registered under the Clean Development Mechanism ("CDM") under Applicable Laws or any other such mechanism available during the Contract Period. The operator shall also share 50 per cent of the revenues earned from CDM with the Authority. Additionally, the water used for washing buses (200 litres/day/bus) will be calculated as per Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) rates and deducted from the monthly bills payable.

The buses will also be marked on 29 key performance indicators and defined penalties for failure to meet each KPI.

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Illegal digging

Jayamahal

Illegal excavation activities are rampant in Nandidurga Extension, with private individuals even climbing BESCOM poles. The absence of oversight from BWSSB, BESCOM, and BBMP is alarming and poses safety risks to the community.

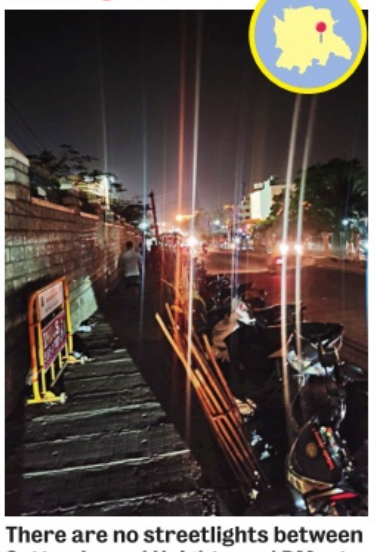
Garbage everywhere

Ramamurthy Nagar

Dodda Banaswadi is grappling with a garbage menace, affecting the vicinity around the bus stop road. Immediate action is imperative to address this issue and maintain cleanliness in the neighbourhood.

No light in sight

Hesaraghatta



There are no streetlights between Sattva Laurel Heights and DMart on Hesaraghatta Main Road.

Screen regularly, live healthy

Healthy individuals possess inner strength to face life's challenges, say experts

World Health Day holds immense significance globally, as it serves as a reminder of the critical role that health plays in our lives. It provides a platform to raise awareness about various health issues, promote healthy living practices, and advocate for accessible healthcare services for all individuals. Its importance extends beyond a single day of celebration, as it serves as a catalyst for ongoing efforts to improve health outcomes worldwide by focusing attention on specific health themes each year, such as mental health, maternal and child health, infectious diseases, or non-communicable diseases.

There is a need to raise awareness about the importance of preventive healthcare measures such as regular health check-ups, vaccinations, screenings, and healthy lifestyle choices, and a need to encourage individuals to prioritise preventive care to reduce the burden of diseases and promote early detection and intervention. Experts call for a focus on mental health awareness by debunking myths, reducing stigma, and promoting mental wellness strategies such as stress management, mindfulness practices, and seeking professional help when needed.

An expert said, "A healthy individual possesses the inner strength to face life's challenges. Today, we also highlight the importance of kidney health. Kidney diseases are insidious, often leading to progressive loss of kidney function and necessitating dialysis or transplantation for survival. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is pervasive and lacks a cure, making prevention the best strategy. Early detection and treatment can mitigate CKD's progression, delaying or averting the need for definitive interventions. Therefore, I urge everyone to prioritise nutritious eating and maintaining overall health."

Paediatricians stress the urgency for parents and governments to prioritise children's health. A paediatrician said, "Health constitutes genuine wealth, encompassing not only physical wellness but also mental and social well-being. Let us not merely exist but thrive."

Experts say that promoting health equity requires ensuring universal access to high-quality healthcare. Sadly, many worldwide lack even basic healthcare access, necessitating concerted efforts for change. Addressing social and economic determinants of health, such as poverty, discrimination, and limited education, is vital. These factors significantly impact health outcomes, necessitating investments in education, improved living conditions, and economic opportunities for healthier lifestyles. Collaborative actions to foster health equity can create a fairer, healthier world.

"As seasons change, so do health risks. Summer may heighten foodborne infections, while rainy seasons can escalate dengue and malaria cases. Prioritising clean food, air, and hand hygiene is essential. Seeking timely medical care and maintaining weight are crucial for optimal health. Embracing regular exercise, a balanced diet, and sufficient sleep are pivotal in fostering overall well-being," another health expert added.

Experts also said that there is a need to promote health literacy and education initiatives to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills to make informed health decisions, manage chronic conditions, practice good hygiene, and promote healthy behaviours within their families and communities. There is a need to highlight the impact of environmental factors on health and advocate for sustainable practices that protect the environment and promote public health.

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The eye, one of the most active organs in our body, tirelessly serves us from dawn till dusk, making its care imperative. Modern day life style and with the rise of mobile phones, TVs, and computers, eye diseases have proliferated. Dry eyes, glaucoma, allergic conjunctivitis, cataracts, and various other conditions have become prevalent. Amidst this surge, quality eye hospitals in Bangalore are scarce, and Shekar Hospital stands out among the Best. Renowned for its excellence in ophthalmology, it offers international standard treatment led by a team of dedicated doctors, some with over a decade of experience. The hospital boasts cutting-edge technology, including robotic and AI systems, alongside the Centurion Vision System for cataract removal. Dr. Rajasekhar Y.L., the hospital's founder, emphasizes a service-oriented approach, instilling confidence in patients and facilitating swift recoveries. Catering not only to locals but also drawing patients from neighboring states and abroad, Shekar Eye Hospital attends to 80 to 90 thousand individuals annually, prioritizing affordability without compromising on quality.Specializing in Diabetic Retinal Care and prioritizing glaucoma detection and treatment, the hospital operates on the principles of expertise, empathy, and ethics. Offering a wide array of treatments, including but not limited to cataracts, cornea, vitreo-retinal issues, and pediatric eye check-ups, Shekar Eye Hospital prioritizes shared decision-making.

SHEKAR EYE HOSPITAL
expertise, empathy and ethics

Employing this internationally recognized method ensures patients are well-informed about their conditions and treatment options, fostering transparency and trust.

Situated at 633, Outer Ring Rd, 3rd Phase, J. P. Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560078, Shekar Eye Hospital, under the leadership of Dr. Rajasekhar Y.L., epitomizes a commitment to providing quality eye care with compassion. Dr. Rajasekhar affirms,For appointments, **Contact : 9980562020.**

Dr.Rajashekar Y.L.
founder of Shekar Eye Hospital.

"Our hospital's core objective is to deliver superior treatment with a human touch. Equipped with the latest technology and a team of experienced doctors, we offer excellent care to all our patients."

THE SUNDAY READ

The BIG DIP

Live storage status of reservoirs reveals Karnataka's reservoirs have gone down by 22%

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Central Water Commission (CWC), in its analysis of the live storage status of 150 reservoirs across the country, has highlighted that Karnataka has witnessed a 22% departure in water levels in its reservoirs this year compared with the average storage level of the last ten years.

The commission has looked at 16 reservoirs in Karnataka with a total live storage capacity of 24.625 billion cubic metres (BCM). While the last 10 years' average storage was 7.358 BCM, the current live storage of the 16 reservoirs is 5.765 BCM. During this time last year, the storage was 8.286 BCM.

The 16 reservoirs analyzed by CWC include Krishnaraj Sagar, Tungabhadra, Bhadra, Linganamakki, Narayanpur, Hemavthy, Supa, Mani Dam, Tattihalla, Ghatarprabha, Malaprabha, Almatti, Dudhganga, Kabini, Harangi, and VV Sagar.

Experts say while water levels in reservoirs are much lower compared to last year, the already low stocks are expected to fall further. Large-scale rainfall deficits in the previous monsoon season, with normal or above-normal rainfall only between July and August last year are some reasons behind the low level of reservoirs. Experts also underline that to have water levels above normal; a few rain spells during monsoon have to be above normal which did not happen.

"October 2023 was a dry month. However, due to the El Nino effect, this year was expected to be a drought year. However, we have landed in this situation on multiple occasions in the past and the solution lies in better management of available resources," said a city-based hydrologist.

However, weather experts anticipate a normal monsoon this year, which is expected to improve water levels in reservoirs.

India scenario

Central Water Commission's recent report on the live storage status of 150 reservoirs in the country has noted that 20 reservoirs are hydroelectric projects having a total live storage capacity of 35.299 BCM.

The total live storage capacity of 150 reservoirs is 178.784 BCM, and live storage available in these reservoirs is 64.606 BCM, which is 36% of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. However, last year the live storage available in these reservoirs for the corresponding period was 76.991 BCM and the average of last 10 years live storage was 66.644 BCM.

Thus, the live storage available in 150 reservoirs is 84 % of the live storage of the corresponding period of last year and 97% of storage of average of the last 10 years.

> **"Due to the El Nino effect, this year was expected to be a drought year. However, we have landed in this situation on multiple occasions in the past. The solution lies in better management of available resources** – Hydrologist

THIRSTY CITY: Lap it up

NGO, BBMP tie up to distribute bowls for people to keep water out for strays

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To aid stray animals in times of water crisis, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), along with an NGO Water for Voiceless, will be distributing free water bowls. Citizens can scan a QR code and get the free water bowls.

Unable to find water, the well-being of these animals is now dependent on the generousity of humans as the city grapples with a water crisis, so BBMP is encouraging citizens to show some empathy towards the strays and leave some water for them.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Health) Suraj told BM, "To help the stray animals, along with an NGO, water bowls are being distributed. We have issued a QR code that could be scanned, and people can sign up for the water bowl."

The NGO has been carrying out the work for nearly a decade now, and this year it has distributed close to 2,000 water bowls in 45 days. "We have been distributing these water bowls for the past seven to eight years, now across 22 cities around the country. So far, we have distributed nearly 78,000 water bowls and roughly 30,000 water bowls in Bengaluru alone. We sent out roughly 200 to 300 pet-friendly cement bowls across the country," said Sunny Jain, founder of Water for Voiceless.

According to the NGO, after signing up, citizens can collect the bowls from the various distribution centres located across the city. The website carries the GPS location along with the distributor's number.

Jain started this movement after a dog he tried to save passed away and when he saw another dog drinking water from a dirty puddle. "I was not always an animal lover. But once, when I was travelling, a stray dog came under the tyre. The dog was severely wounded, and we took it to multiple hospitals in Tumakuru and Bengaluru. But all help was of no avail. This was the origin of the NGO.

There was another incident where I saw a stray dog drinking from a dirty puddle. We started distributing water bowls after that incident," he added.

The founder also added that the purpose of distributing the water bowls for free is to create awareness. "We hope that somewhere some person might place an empty container with water for the stray animals," he added.

Rekindling reading habits among students

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has now taken up 'a reading mission' to develop reading habits among students, which has taken a hit with the advent of gizmos. In fact, many educationists complain that students are mostly hooked on mobile phones at home and are reluctant to read.

In a recent circular issued to the principals, the board said that reading is a fundamental skill that serves as the cornerstone of education and personal development. The National Achievement Survey underscores the direct correlation between proficient reading skills and academic success across subjects.

"This report emphasises the critical role of reading, highlighting that a significant percentage of students in India lack basic reading proficiency, hindering their overall learning outcomes. It not only enhances mental abilities but also promotes empathy, critical thinking, and a broader understanding of the world."

The National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 also emphasises providing access to high-quality children's literature to cultivate a reading culture across the country.

These reports underscore the urgency of prioritising and improving reading skills to ensure a literate and knowledgeable society, laying the foundation for future academic and professional achievements. In line with the recommendations of NEP 2020, the CBSE Reading Mission was launched on September 20, 2021, with the primary objective of fostering a strong culture of reading in all affiliated schools nationwide.

By incorporating these initiatives, CBSE aims to instill a lifelong love for reading and equip students with essential literacy skills for their academic and personal growth.

While key competency of reading is the foundation of learning, the skill of writing empowers learners through a process of critical and creative thinking, comprehending thoughts, and sharing them with others

The board said that the observance of National Reading Day and Reading Week is celebrated every year on June 19 to honour the legacy of the late P N Panicker, the father of the Library Movement. Hence, it has asked schools to participate in this initiative to promote reading habits among students through a range of engaging activities. Furthermore, to achieve this, on June 19 the Board is planning to attempt the Guinness World Record for "the most children reading at one time." This activity will be conducted on the CBSE's online platform "CBSE Reading App."

"With a view to harness the reading skills and to showcase the skills and competencies in the reading and literacy area among the students of the Board, the annual CBSE Reading Challenge for the academic session 2024-25 will be conducted in August this year.

This challenge is an exciting opportunity for students of classes sixth to tenth of CBSE-affiliated schools to enhance their reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. It includes a range of benefits such as reading with comprehension and accuracy, constructing meaning by retrieving information, relating text with prior knowledge, integrating and interpreting information, drawing inferences, reflecting and evaluating to judge the quality and credibility of the text," said the board officials.

The practice of reading has numerous benefits. While its key competency is the foundation of learning, the skill of writing empowers learners through a process of critical and creative thinking, comprehending thoughts, and sharing them with others.

"Through this program, learners will get an opportunity to engage with experts through webinars on the art of story writing, learn and hone the skills of creating, writing, and illustrating short stories, publish stories on the CBSE platform, and they shall be provided with a certificate of participation as a token of appreciation for their efforts," the board said in a circular.

II VISHWA VIDYAPEETH II
GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A TRULY INDIAN SCHOOL WITH A GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Testimonial from Ms. Sridevi [Mother of Tanusri & Gahanashri]

Our journey started at VVP after we loved the ambience & care of the team during the summer camp. The special attention given to my daughters to ensure that their health was taken care of with nutritional breakfast & lunch, organic gardening practices of the students, gratitude inculcated in my children towards what they have been blessed with are few of the reasons that assured me that I had made the right choice. Over the years, my daughters have developed leadership skills, social awareness, and global exposure through various events and sports programs offered by VVP. The active engagement of parents in school activities and workshops motivated me to pursue professional courses and become a certified counsellor myself. Today, I am proud of my children's compassionate nature and exceptional intellect, and grateful for VVP's contribution in nurturing their growth.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

A BUTTERFLY'S KISS

A small butterfly sunning itself on the frond of a decorative palm.

The picture was clicked by reader **A Aruna**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Lake buffer zone off-limits for construction: KTCDA

Citizens' complaints lead to action against unauthorised construction, emphasising conservation efforts

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

"We had reported about this in December. There is a walk path and it's being converted into a 30ft road – Sandeep Anirudhan, member, Whitefield Ward Committee

The Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) has asked the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to halt construction on the buffer zone of Pattandur Agrahara Lake. Residents had raised the issue about the illegal layout to the tank authority.

After BDA stopped the construction, KTCDA wrote to BDA and BBMP urging the authorities to take strict action to prevent any unauthorised construction near the White Rose Layout. Residents raised the issue last year with the tank authority stating illegal construction and road within Pattandur Agrahara Lake's buffer zone.

KTCDA asked BDA and BBMP officials to conduct a survey of the land and stop construction within 30 metres of the lake boundary (lake buffer zone).

This was the second illegal construction reported by the Whitefield Ward Committee. Earlier, the ward committee group reported an illegal construction ongoing in the White Rose Layout and consequently issued notices against 72 unauthorised constructions.

"We had reported about this illegal layout in December. They were also attempting to form a road through the lake buffer zones. There is a walk path and it's being converted into a 30ft road. We had also observed sewage pipelines being dropped into the lake," said Sandeep Anirudhan, a member of the Whitefield Ward Committee.

According to the KTCDA Act, in the interest of protecting lakes, it prohibits making any irregular and unauthorised construction, establishing commercial, recreational, or industrial complexes or houses, or carrying out any industrial activity within thirty meters of the outer boundary of the tank. This regulation aims to safeguard the ecological balance and sustainability of the water bodies, emphasising the critical need for strict enforcement to preserve the natural heritage of the region.

Encroachment near Pattandur Agrahara Lake

DID YOU KNOW?

Mayo Hall, a graceful government edifice erected in honour of the 4th Viceroy of India, Lord Mayo, stands as a testament to Bengaluru's rich heritage. Renowned for its captivating architecture, the hall offers a breathtaking vista encompassing Bengaluru's Parade Grounds, Ulsoor Lake, Bangalore Race Course, and Brigade Grounds. The illustrious Kempegowda Museum, housed on its first floor, showcases rare artefacts from the Yelahanka dynasty and 16th-century Bengaluru. Adorned with ornate furniture and resplendent Italian chandeliers, Mayo Hall stands as a symbol of historical grandeur, captivating all who venture within its walls.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Which community initiatives or social projects in Bengaluru do you think contribute to its greatness?

Bhavya, BM Reader
Bengaluru is home to several community initiatives and social projects that have contributed to the city's growth. One such initiative is the Corporate Social Responsibility projects undertaken by various companies.

Soumya, BM Reader
The "Namma Ooru" initiative is a fantastic way to bring people together. It's like a big family where everyone helps each other out. I love how it teaches us to care for our environment and our community.

Umesh, BM Reader
Community-driven initiatives, such as clean-up drives and social projects addressing local issues, reflect Bangaloreans' commitment to their city. These efforts contribute to a strong sense of community and civic responsibility.

Rajendra, BM Reader
Bengaluru, a city renowned for its religious, cultural, and linguistic diversity, fosters initiatives where communities come together to celebrate various festivals and sporting events.

Hema, BM Reader
There are many community initiatives and social projects that contribute to Bengaluru's greatness such as CRY - Child Rights and You. They work towards ensuring that every child has a happy, healthy, and creative childhood.

Bhavya C, BM Reader
Samarthanam Trust works towards empowering persons with disabilities and creating an inclusive society. They provide education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities to persons with disabilities.

SPEAK TO US

Can you pinpoint specific instances where Bengaluru's traffic management has impressed you?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: Doctors say that having about 2–5 cups of coffee a day is linked to a lower likelihood of type 2 diabetes and heart disease

Cucumbers are about 96% water, so they can promote hydration and help you meet your daily fluid needs

BangaloreMirror 9
Sunday, April 7, 2024
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All you need to know about...

Screening for prostate cancer

Blood test
A simple blood test that checks for prostate-specific antigen (PSA), a marker for prostate cancer, is safe and sufficient, if done at intervals of every five years, finds a study on Saturday.

False positives
Screening for prostate cancer has historically been a controversial subject. While the PSA test has been effective in screening the risk, it is also known for false positives leading to unnecessary invasive treatments and false negatives leading to cancers being missed.

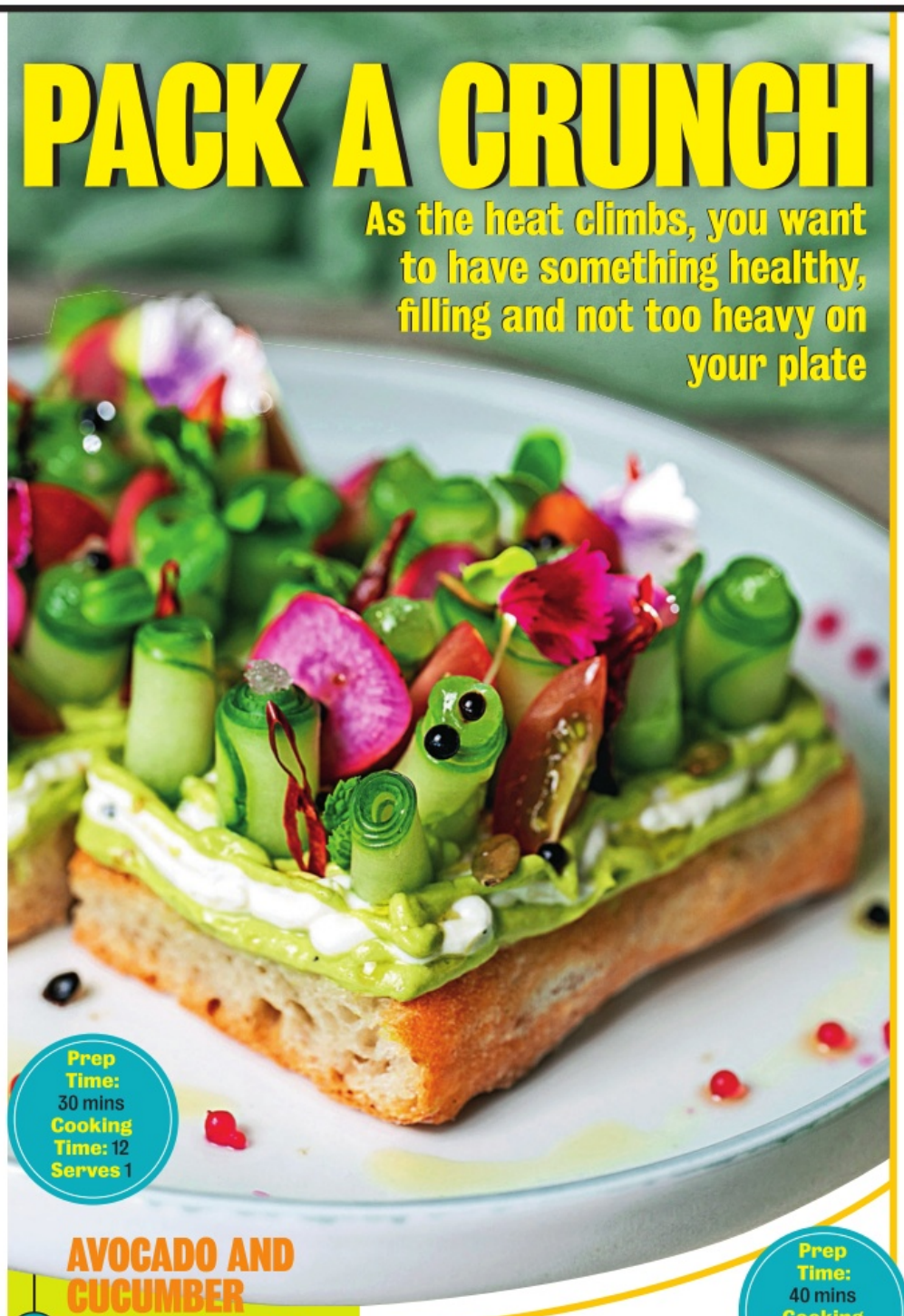
Active surveillance
"This is gradually changing due to MRI scans which can avoid unnecessary biopsies and the use of 'active surveillance', where men with early-stage cancer are monitored and only undergo treatment if their disease progresses," said the researchers from Heinrich-Heine University, Dusseldorf in Germany.

Interval of five years
The team's study, presented at the ongoing European Association of Urology (EAU) Congress in Paris, France, showed that five years is enough to screen low-risk men for prostate.
They noted that the "screening interval for those at low risk could be much longer with minimal additional risk".

Worrying numbers
The findings come as a new analysis published in the Lancet Commission on Friday showed that cases of prostate cancer are likely to double worldwide to 2.9 million per year, while annual deaths are projected to rise by 85 per cent -- to almost 700,000 deaths by 2040.
The new study included men aged 45 split into three groups. Men with a PSA level of under 1.5 nanograms per millilitre (ng/ml) were deemed low risk and followed up with a second test after five years. **IANS**

PACK A CRUNCH

As the heat climbs, you want to have something healthy, filling and not too heavy on your plate



Prep Time: 30 mins
Cooking Time: 12
Serves 1

AVOCADO AND CUCUMBER RIBBON SALAD

INGREDIENTS
- 1 sourdough bread
- 60ml mint garlic yogurt sauce
- 30gm avocado cream
- 90gm cucumber
- 20gm cherry tomato
- 15gm pickled radish
- 5gm pumpkin seeds
- 4gm red chilles
- 30gm lemon dressing
- 3ml chilli oil
- 3ml pesto oil

METHOD
- Cut sour dough bread into half and toast
- Apply mint garlic yogurt and avocado cream
- Make cucumber ribbons with the help of a peeler. Roll the ribbons and place on bread
- Cut cherry tomatoes into slices and place on top of cream
- Add pickled radishslices and chili slices
- Sprinkle some pumpkin seeds
- Finaly drizzle with lemon dressing
- Garnish with edible flowers, balsamic vinegar
- Drizzle some Chili oil and pesto oil

Prep Time: 40 mins
Cooking Time: 15
Serves 1

ANTIPASTO MOZZARELLA SOURDOUGH WITH PESTO SAUCE

INGREDIENTS
- 1 Sour Dough bread
- 30 ml Pesto sauce
- 15gm lettuce
- 15gm cucumber
- 15gm tomato
- 25gm grilled bell pepper
- 20gm grilled artichoke
- 20gm sundried tomato
- 60gm salad
- 80gm French fries
- 30gm fresh mozzarella
- 30gm Mustard aioli

METHOD
- Cut sour dough bread into half and toast
- Apply pesto sauce on toasted bread
- Place the lettuce on bottom of toast
- On top of lettuce place cucumber slice, tomato slice
- Sprinkle some seasoning (salt& pepper)
- Add grilled bell pepper, grilled artichoke and sundried tomato
- Finally add sliced fresh mozzarella, torch with blow torch
- Served along with side salad, frenchfries, and mustard and any spicy tomato dip
- Garnish with pesto oil

CHILLED MELON & SPROUTS SALAD

INGREDIENTS
- 400gm Water melon
- 200gm muskmelon
- 30gm sprouts
- 30gm feta cheese
- 60gm argula lettuce
- 15ml lemon vinaigrette
- 1nos orange segments
- 20gm pomegranate seeds
- 15gm museli bar
- 7gm balsamic caviar
- 5gm micro greens
- 5gm edible flowers
- 10gm balsamic glaze

For Lemon Vinaigrette:
- 15gm peeled garlic
- 2gm thyme
- 2gm oregano
- 45gm olive oil
- 15gm dijion mustard
- 10gm honey
- 2gm salt
- 2gm pepper powder
- 10gm lemon
- 5gm red wine vinegar

Method of preparation
Mix all above ingredients in a hand blender except vinegar and oil, check seasoning and slowly add vinegar and oil until dressing get smooth without any lumps, strain it and keep.

Balsamic Vinegar
It is made using only 1 ingredient
- 1000g grape juice/ must

Method of preparation
- The grapes are pressed whole – including the stems, seeds and juice, and then cooked over a flame until reduced by half. They are left to ferment naturally for up to three months. Strain it and use.

METHOD
- Cut water melon into a round t1"slice without seeds
- Cut muskmelon into small cylinders with the help of a cookie cutter, keep aside
- Take a salad bowl and brush with some balsamic vinegar
- Place the water melon and the melon pieces in the bowl
- Toss the lettuce with lemon vinaigrette
- Place it on the watermelon slice
- Arrange the orange segments and sprinkle pomegranate seeds at the sides
- Place the muesli bars
- Add seasoned sprouts on top of salad
- Garnish with edible flower,micro greens and balsamic caviar.

Prep Time: 25 mins
Cooking Time: 10
Serves 2

Recipe from Naresh Kumar, Executive Chef, TYD – Kitchen & Bar

real estate

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INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AROUND

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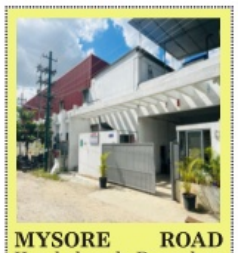
MYSORE ROAD



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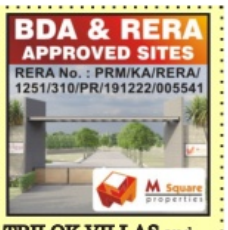

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I, Rajath S/o Prakash m k R/o No-39, 3rd cross, 3rd main, hanumantha nagar, Bengaluru 560019 have changed my name to Rajath mudabagalu Prakash affidavit Dt.06/04/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Rumana Nodavinakere Enayath W/o Waseem Pasha, R/at No.60, 2nd Cross, Ramakrishna Nagar, Ilyaz Nagar, J.P Nagar post, Bangalore-560078 have changed my name to Rumana Waseem Pasha, affidavit dt: 06.04.2024 Notary R Basavaraja, B.lore.

I, Maria Usha D/o C R Devaraj Pillai R/o No G1 Emerald Enclave, Kaveri Layout, Kereguddahalli, Chikkabana - vara Post, Bangalore - 560090 have changed my name to D Gayathri for all purposes.

I Gokul P S/o Prem Kumar V R/o # 18, Gokul Nilaya, 9th across, 1st Main, Bhuvanesh - wari Nagar, Rt Nagar Post, Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Gokul Prem Kumar for all purposes

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'Clean, desilt exposed lakebeds now'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One case in point is Dorekere Lake. The lakebed is covered with black, dried up slush and silt — the remnants of the untreated sewage that entered the waterbody over years. Experts said this deposition would now allow water to percolate.

"As silt accumulates, it does not allow groundwater recharging. Moreover, a lot of plastic items can be seen in Dorekere now that it is completely dried up. The lake was handed over to BBMP by Karnataka Forest Department nearly five years ago. Going by this timeline, de-silting should be taken up while there is no water. It will be cost effective," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a lake activist.

Lake Mitras taking care of these waterbodies said sludge is high in nutrients and impacts water quality.

"Now that the lakebed of Doddakallasandra is visible, one can see a layer of silt. Although the lake was rejuvenated in 2021, it requires another de-silting. It will not only help in groundwater recharge and increase storage capacity, but will also improve water quality," said Soundararajan Rajagopalan, a resident of an area near Doddakallasandra Lake.

According to Balaji Raghotham Bali, a lake activist, with small quantities of water in many lakes, the situation is akin to cesspools due to sewage and waste dumping. Citizens working with various lakes in the city say authorities must act immediately to de-silt and clean lakebeds before monsoon.

"Cleaning waterbodies should be part of regular maintenance. Many lakes such as Gangashetty Lake, Seegehalli Lake and Varanasi Lake are in the need of de-silting and cleaning. From e-waste to medical waste, inlets and outlets of these lakes are choked. This is the best time for BBMP to clean them," said Bali.

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Kohli shines, but RCB manage just 183

Virat Kohli enhanced his status as a lone ranger by notching up a record-extending eighth IPL century but Royal Challengers could only manage just about par-score of 183 for 3 against Rajasthan Royals

Rajasthan Royals' Yuzvendra Chahal (R) gestures as Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli (C) looks on during the IPL Twenty20 cricket match in Jaipur on Saturday

Virat Kohli showed superb improvisation, from his wrist-rolled pulls, powerful swat flicks to steer through third man as he remained unbeaten on 113 off 72 balls and has now scored 38 percent of RCB's total runs so far.

Kohli smashed 12 fours and four sixes and barring the assistance received from his skipper Faf Du Plessis (44 from 33 balls; 2x4, 2x6), he did not get any support from the other batters.

After reaching his fifty in 39 balls, Kohli stepped up well and took just 28 balls for his next fifty as he reached the milestone with a single off Nandre Burger in the penultimate over.

Glenn Maxwell (1) and debutant left-hander Saurav Chauhan (9), who failed to replicate his Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 form, fell cheaply.

Credit should go to RR spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin (0/28) and Yuzvendra Chahal (2/34) who stifled the proceedings in the middle overs.

Chahal was exceptional as he cleverly deceived the batters with his pace and variations by bowling googlies and sliders to fox the RCB batters.

Put in, RCB had their best ever start in this IPL when Kohli and Du Plessis saw through the power play for the first time this season in a 125-run opening partnership.

The duo put on a steady 53-run inside the power play, thanks to a brilliant over by Ashwin who conceded just three runs in the fifth over to pull them back.

Their pace spearhead Trent Boult bowled short and Kohli pulled them to get into the zone, while Nandre Burger was wayward and leaked 26 runs from his two overs inside the power play.

Thanks to Ashwin's over, RR had RCB in check even as the visitors had all their wickets intact.

Chahal further tightened the noose by brilliantly stifling Kohli in the eight over where he conceded just four runs.

But Du Plessis broke the shackles smashing Boult for two sixes in the ninth over, while Kohli also got it going against his former RCB teammate, smashing Chahal for six. Sanju Samson took a gamble to bring in Riyan Parag against the set opening duo in the 11th over.

The part-time spinner, who bowls with a sling action even troubled the duo before being smashed by Kohli into the stands to bring up his third fifty this season. It came off 39 balls.

Riyan had a chance to break the partnership but he dropped a tough return catch from Du Plessis on 36.

Chahal finally broke the opening stand in an eventful 14th over, dismissing Du Plessis.

In the same over, Kohli was dropped on 66, a tough chance by Burger at point, and then Boult grassed a sitter from the South African at extra cover.

However in the next ball, Buttler made no mistake when Du Plessis went in for charge once again to be holed out at long-on.

He may have failed to impress with the new ball, but Burger came back strongly in the middle overs and beat Maxwell by angle and pace to clean up the Aussie danger-man for a three-ball one. **PTI**

BJP files complaint against Congress candidate from Chamarajanagara

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has filed a complaint with the Election Commission against the Congress candidate from the Chamarajanagara Lok Sabha constituency, Sunil Bose, accusing him of concealing information in his affidavit during nomination. The BJP delegation, led by former district BJP president Narayana Prasad, submitted a complaint against Bose, who is the son of HC Mahadevappa and a close aide of CM Siddaramaiah, to the district election officer, officials said on Saturday. The BJP delegation demanded the rejection of Bose's nomination, alleging that he submitted a false affidavit without disclosing important information about his married life and children. Bose also allegedly failed to declare property details belonging to his wife, children, and parents, they claimed.

Therefore, the affidavit submitted by Sunil Bose is invalid, the BJP delegation alleged while submitting their complaint, along with photographs of Sunil Bose with his wife and children. They said that they filed the complaint based on the photos in Sunil Bose's Facebook account.

Karnataka, which has 28 Lok Sabha seats, will vote in two phases on April 26 and May 7. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress and JD-S fought together against the BJP, and the combine was decimated.

Potshots at Cong

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday took potshots at the Congress, saying that its 'guarantee' promises in Karnataka had put burden on developmental activities besides hurting the state budget. Also, the Lok Sabha manifesto of the Congress party is non-implementable, she added. "The promises made by the Congress in their manifesto are un-implementable and there will be budget deficit. There would be lack of funds to implement those," she told reporters in Bengaluru.

"Do you a vision for this country? Do you have a hope about how technology and education can help our youth," she asked. Congress released its manifesto for Lok Sabha polls on Friday. Sitharaman alleged that Congress makes promises just for the sake of it and termed the promises as handouts.

"They haven't got a clear idea of how to give a politically viable alternative to prime minister Modi. Their simple agenda is to remove prime minister from his post and 'we will come back, but who's we they are not sure about'," she said, targeting the opposition INDIA bloc. **– IANS**

Keeping an eye out

CISF personnel take out a route march near SJP Road in preparation for the upcoming elections

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

'Eshwarappa cannot use Modi's pictures'

Rebel candidate is facing heat from party leaders; war of words is on

Leader of Opposition Ashoka says party will decide about action against Eshwarappa after he files nomination

Karnataka BJP rebel leader KS Eshwarappa, who had vowed to contest as an independent candidate from Shivamogga seat, has filed a caveat petition in the district court in connection with using Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photo while campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls. He filed the caveat application on Friday anticipating court direction not to use photos of PM Modi if the petition in this regard is filed by the BJP leaders.

The war of words is already on between BJP's Shivamogga candidate and MP BY Raghavendra and Eshwarappa in this regard. Raghavendra had ridiculed Eshwarappa for using PM Modi's photos during the campaigning. Reacting to it, Eshwarappa had said PM Modi is not the property of Raghavendra's father.

Eshwarappa is miffed with the BJP's decision to deny a ticket to his son K. E. Kanthesh to contest the Lok Sabha polls from Haveri Seat. However, Eshwarappa is contesting from Shivamogga to defeat BJP candidate Raghavendra, who is the son of former CM B.S Yediyurappa. Eshwarappa has stated that Yediyurappa had betrayed him. Eshwarappa has also vowed to get B.Y. Vijayendra, another son of Yediyurappa removed from the post of Karnataka BJP chief.

Eshwarappa had announced that he will file his nomination on April 12. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had personally spoken to him over phone during his visit to Bengaluru. Eshwarappa had stated, "HM Amit Shah did not meet me. His office told me that he is unavailable. I assume that it is an indication from his side for me to go ahead with my decision to contest as an Independent candidate."

Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka on Saturday indicated that BJP will decide on rebel leader K S Esharappa, who has decided to contest as an independent in Shimoga Lok Sabha segment, once he files his nomination against the party's official candidate.

Accusing Eshwarappa of making "unauthorised use" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pictures during his campaign, he said, only BJP has the right to use it for its political activities like seeking votes, and that the party's legal cell will look into it.

"It is wrong, Eshwarappa doesn't have the right to use (Modi's pictures). Modi's photo can be used for a government event as he is the prime minister of the country. When it is a matter that is political or related to votes or election, only BJP has the right to use Modi's pictures," Ashoka said. Speaking to reporters, he said, "Only BJP has the right legally and the party's legal cell will look into it, and they will lodge a necessary complaint.... It is being used in an unauthorised way, it is not right."

Asked about the party still not taking any action against Eshwarappa, Ashoka said, after he files his nomination against the party's official candidate, the BJP will take a decision about him. **– Agencies**

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(10^2+100÷2 – 3!) / (5! + 4!) = ?

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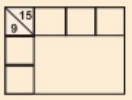
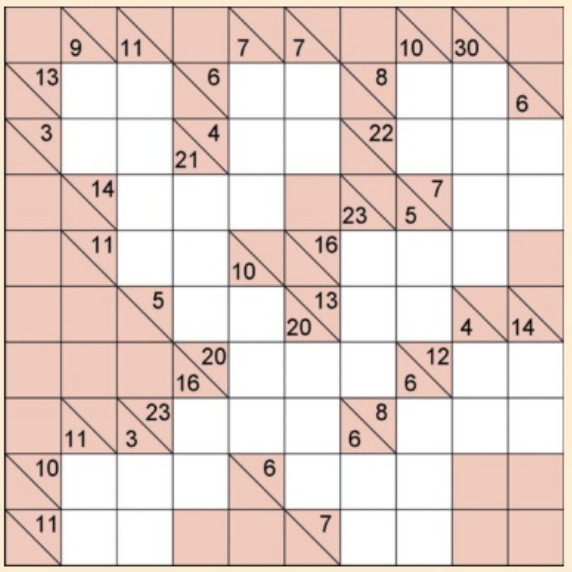
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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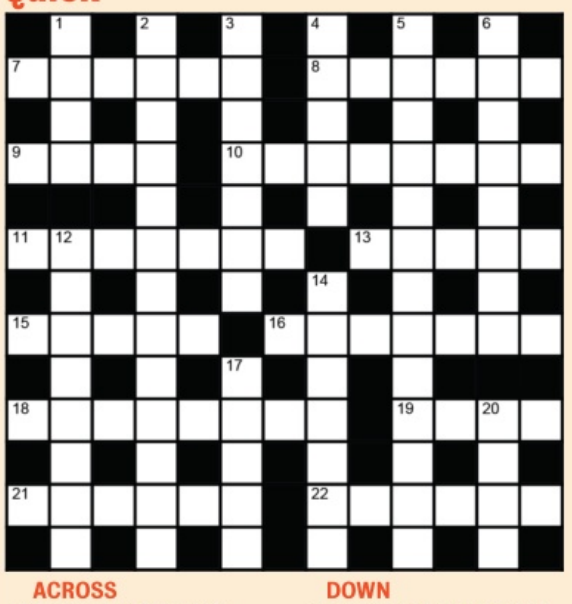


ACROSS

7 Flat level surfaces? (6)
8 Prize (6)
9 Border (4)
10 Mining near the surface? (4-4)
11 Poems of fourteen lines (7)
13 Senseless or silly (5)
15 Avow or aver (5)
16 Parched (informal) (7)
18 Al fresco bar at the Oberoi (4,4)
19 Chance in a game (4)
21 Great desert (6)
22 Four scores and ten? (6)

DOWN

1 Lost a lot of vital fluid? (4)
2 Global? (13)
3 Accompanies (7)
4 All __ ___ : confused? (2,3)
5 Focusing (13)
6 Stale joke or anecdote (8)
12 Voluntary (8)
14 Ms Azmi of Bollywood (7)
17 Lessen or soothe; calm (5)
20 Memory alone (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS G

C PRYRJ ERLJP LPGNVCPA NLESCPA. C UPEG ERLJP NVC-PAX QVRP C LXS TWRXNCUPX.

Linemaro

I wanna live in your socks so I can be with you every step of the way

Mindchow

He who doesn't hope to win has already lost

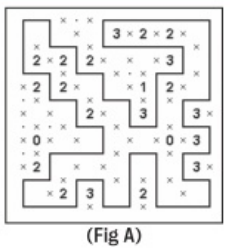
Joke of the day

The tombstone is about the only thing that can stand upright and lie on its face at the same time

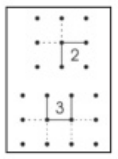
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

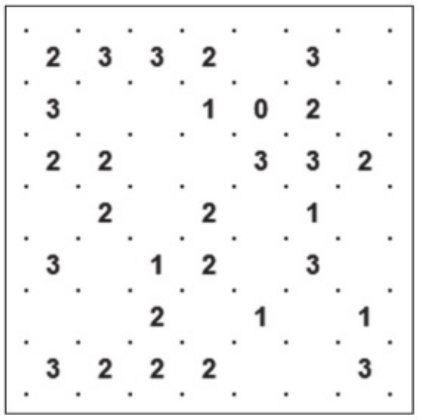


(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9 K				

ACROSS

1 A leap; 6 Renal;
7 To tec; 8 In EEC;
9 Stark

DOWN

1 OK PLN; 2 Ace I a;
3 Alert; 4 Crete;
5 Etnas

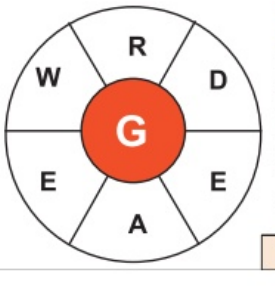
Mensapuzzle

The right set of six numbers has a relationship to the set of six numbers below. The two sets of six boxes on the left have the same relationship as the two sets of six boxes on the right. Which set of numbers should therefore replace the question marks?

4	8	2	3	9	7		5	9	1	4	3	6
2	9	4	7	3	8		?	?	?	?	?	?

A	4	5	3	1	9	5
B	1	3	5	6	4	9
C	9	5	1	6	3	4
D	8	2	7	9	3	6
E	2	4	8	1	3	5

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

17 Average; 19 Good; 21 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	1	3				4	6	
8				4				9
		5	8		9	2		
	8		1		4		7	
			5		2			
	7		6		3		1	
		8	2		1	9		
1				3				5
	5	4				7	2	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2
2 3 6 9

Medium = 6
2 2 2 5

Hard = 40
2 4 8 3

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

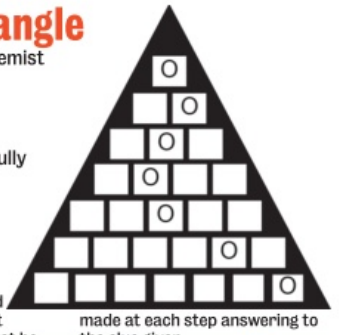
Differences: 1. Bedpost is different. 2. Opening on side of pillow is larger. 3. Window is smaller. 4. Moon is higher. 5. Panelling on wall is different. 6. Words on letter are moved around.

Riddler

Weight I carry on my shoulders Of articles new and older Sideways on a pole, I may drift Until my burden you do lift My brothers, silent by my side Each with his own load to preside Were I to get bent out of shape Recycling I may not escape What am I?

Alpha triangle

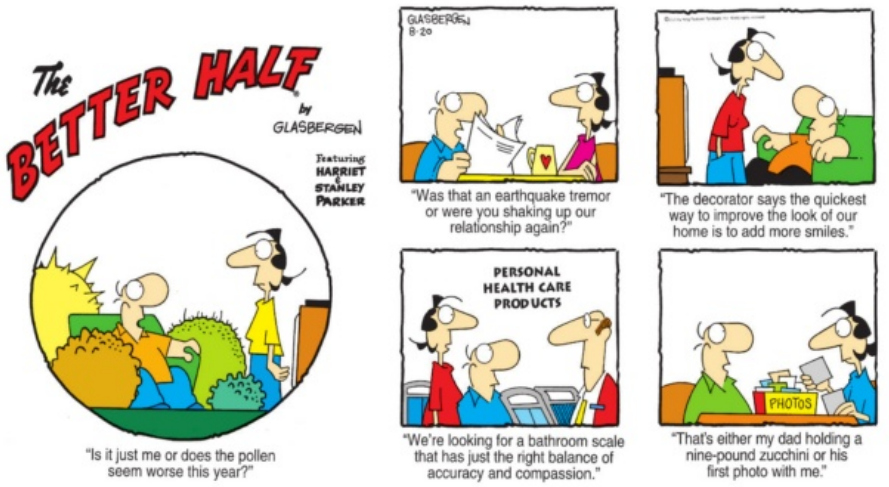
1 Oxygen for the chemist
2 Move
3 Fallen tree trunk
4 Aim or end
5 Twilight
6 Jump about playfully
7 Backache



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"Is it just me or does the pollen seem worse this year?"
GLASBERGEN 8-20
"Was that an earthquake tremor or were you shaking up our relationship again?"
"The decorator says the quickest way to improve the look of our home is to add more smiles."
PERSONAL HEALTH CARE PRODUCTS
"We're looking for a bathroom scale that has just the right balance of accuracy and compassion."
PHOTOS
"That's either my dad holding a nine-pound zucchini or his first photo with me."

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
HAMMIE...?
SORRY I'M KINDA LATE.
I ALSO FORGOT MY BACKPACK.
PLUS, I'M WEARING THE SAME CLOTHES AS YESTERDAY, AND I DIDN'T COMB MY HAIR.
ON TOP OF THAT, MY SHOES AREN'T TIED, MY SOCKS DON'T MATCH, AND I MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE REMEMBERED TO BRUSH MY TEETH THIS MORNING.
OH, MY.
DO YOU HAVE AN EXCUSE?
MY MOM HAS LARYNGITIS.

FLASH GORDON
S-1
By JIM KEEFE
AS THE TRICARNOSAUR LUNGES - FLASH STRIKES!
NOW...TO LEAD THE BEAST AWAY FROM DALE!
EXCELLENT STRATEGY, GORDON. YOU'VE SAVED THE GIRL... BUT WHO'S GOING TO SAVE YOU?
MRRRAHHHH!
USING HIS SHACKLES AS MAKESHIFT REINS, VULTAN CHARGES...
IT CAN'T BE...
...WITH EARTH-SHATTERING RESULTS!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel happy. Old health issues related to elders may be cured. Money that was stuck may be recovered now, which may boost your financial health. People who are in a job may change their job to seek promotion. Job seekers may get a job with the help of a friend's reference.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may prefer gaining knowledge; you may understand the value of intellectual assets. Sometimes you may control your short temper, which may help you perform your tasks smoothly. There may be some changes in smooth earnings, which may give you comfort in workflow. You are advised to be careful before making new investments in assets. You are likely to spend money on loved ones. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dull. You may not be able to enjoy the moment. You may be in a hurry to complete the tasks given to you. You may make silly mistakes, and your working efficiency may slow down, affecting your day-to-day work. Your projects may likely be delayed, affecting your professional life. Before making any important decisions, you are advised to seek advice from your elders.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be energetic and more focused, which may speed up your current tasks. Your subordinates may help you start a new project, which may bring profit in the near future. You may expect some short trips related to family issues. Job seekers may hear good news in terms of jobs.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may use your creativity in your office or at home, enhancing your social status. You may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, increasing your savings. Lovebirds may receive support from family members for marriage. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be relaxed after a messy situation. Your inner strength may help you implement difficult decisions in parental business, which may grow your business. Helping needy people around you may increase your social respect. Students might be clear in choosing their career options.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel dull, and your health may not be good. You may also experience anxiety and restlessness. You are advised to postpone your important investments in business or real estate. Avoid rush driving and long-distance travelling. Doing meditation may be helpful for sound sleep.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, blessings from elders may make you happy, and your investments may give you profits. Losses may be converted into profits now. Your savings may boost your bank balance, and you may plan to invest in your kids' future. Enjoy some delicious food at home, and your problems related to your throat, teeth, ears, or nose may be resolved now.

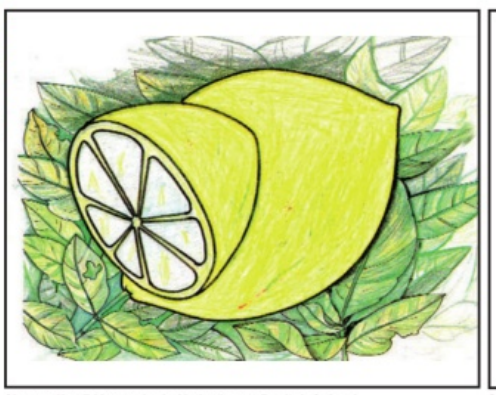
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may enjoy work and may get a promotion after hard work. You may likely help some needy person, increasing your social respect. Overworking your mind may make you tired, and due to your workload, you may not be able to reach some family gatherings. Your parents' health may recover.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, projects that were stopped without reason may start automatically. You may feel satisfied at work and plan a short work-related trip. You may also visit some religious places to maintain your internal strength. Your elders may show you the right path to achieve your goals.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may feel dull, and you may also face health issues. It is advised to keep your mind cool and read documents carefully before signing. You may face difficulty recovering your money and are advised to avoid going on adventure tours. Students are advised to study in-depth for success, and you may be attracted to the occult.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy at home and buying some artefacts or creative stuff to renovate your house, increasing your social status. You may also invest in properties and other fixed assets. You are likely to enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, increasing emotional bonding. Singles may hear good news in terms of marriage.

KIDZONE



Shreya Kg, 5 Years, Lady Vailankanni English School

Sadhvi Sanju, 8 Years, New Cambridge English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
10×10=100
31=6
41=24
51=120
100+100-2-6
100-2=50
100+50-6
150-6=144
120+24=144
144÷144=1

RIDDLER
A coat hanger

QUOTE UNCODE
I never learn anything talking. I only learn things when I ask questions.

FAST FIVE

P	A	L	E	A
L	E	A	R	N
O	C	T	E	T
N	I	E	C	E
K	A	R	T	S

STRIKE OUT

R	E	D	S		I	S	L	A	N	D	E	R		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
8: the top numbers move to the same bottom positions as in the first set.

BULL'S EYE
aged, agree, agreed, drag, eager, edge, egad, gear, geared, grad, grade, greed, grew, rage, raged, RAGWEED, wage, waged, wager, WAGERED, wedge

SUDOKU

3	5	4	9	6	8	7	2	1
1	9	2	4	3	7	6	8	5
7	6	8	2	5	1	9	4	3
2	7	9	6	8	3	5	1	4
4	3	1	5	7	2	8	9	6
5	8	6	1	9	4	3	7	2
6	4	5	8	1	9	2	3	7
8	2	7	3	4	6	1	5	9
9	1	3	7	2	5	4	6	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, Go, Log, Goal, Gloam, Gambol, Lumbago.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 6 + 3 − 9 = 2
Medium
2 × 5 − 2 − 2 = 6
Hard
4 − 2 + 3 × 8 = 40

LOOP

KAKURO

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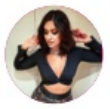

What's cooking?
Actress Ileana D'Cruz took to her Instagram stories on Saturday morning and shared a picture of chicken katsu, a Japanese dish, she made for herself and called it "for the soul"

BangaloreMirror | 16
Sunday, April 7, 2024
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
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@BangaloreMirror

Man up

Kriti Sanon recently sat down to discuss her experiences working with Kareena Kapoor and Tabu, as well as gender disparities in Bollywood. In the interview, she didn't shy away from calling out producers and male actors.

Kriti Sanon criticised male actors for declining small yet impactful roles in female-led projects. "Female actors have often supported many films where they agree to do small yet impactful roles, but not many male actors do the same," the actress told Zoom and added, "There are times when the impact of the female character is maybe 60 percent and the male part is about 40 percent in the script, the male co-star says "Shall we flip this? However, Kriti did acknowledge credit where it was due!

The National Award-winning actress praised Shah Rukh Khan for being one of the few male superstars to embrace such roles." **—ETimes**

WORK IS WORSHIP

Nora on how she manages her multifaceted career

Nora Fatehi, who is making headlines with her recent movie 'Madgaon Express', revealed how she manages her time as an actor, producer, singer and dancer. In an exclusive interview with ANI, the actress opened up about her ethics and how she manages her multifaceted career. Asked about balancing her roles as an actor, producer, singer, dancer, and performer, Nora said, "I just work.I'm alive for work. I work in the morning, I work at night."

The 'Madgaon Express' actress also expressed her gratitude for being able to pursue her dream of becoming a multitalented artiste and how she feels fortunate for the opportunities that come her way."This is my dream, my aspiration, to direct, produce, act, dance. So I'm very lucky to be in this position. There are many people in this industry and in this country whose dream is this, so I just feel very grateful that all these opportunities have come to me," she said.

Nora Fatehi started her career in Bollywood with the film 'Roar: Tigers of the Sundarbans' in 2014. She is known for her dance performances in movies like 'Baahubali: The Beginning', 'Satyamev Jayate', 'Dilbar Dilbar', and 'O Saki Saki'.

She appeared opposite Varun Dhawan in 'Street Dancer 3D'. She was also recognized for her role in 'Batla House' with the Best Supporting Actress award at the 66th Filmfare Awards. Apart from this, the actress has been a judge on shows like 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa' and 'India's Best Dancer'. **—ETimes**

Ex-partner cheated on me: Sunny

Actress Sunny Leone, who hosts the dating reality show along with Tanuj Virwani, shared during a recent episode of the show that her ex-partner cheated on her.

The actress revealed that she was engaged to the person and they were about to get married in two months when he told Sunny that he doesn't love her anymore.

The episode takes an emotional turn when Sunny consoles Dewangini. She also pours her heart out while recalling her own heartbreaking story of a broken engagement and overcoming betrayal. She said, "I also was engaged once before I met my husband. I had a gut feeling that something was wrong, and something was really wrong... He was cheating on me! I just asked him if he loved me anymore, and he was like, 'No, I don't love you anymore'." Sunny eventually tied the knot with Daniel Weber and the couple has three children. — ETimes

Family man

English actor Robert Pattinson, who recently became a father, plans on having more children with Suki Waterhouse.

The 37-year-old actor and his musician/actress girlfriend Suki, 32, recently welcomed their first child together and Robert is so smitten he is eager to add to their family as soon as possible, reports 'Female First UK'.

A source told DailyMail.com: "Rob has taken to fatherhood the same way he has taken his film roles, with complete seriousness and joy. He didn't know what it would be like but it's just blowing his mind. And to see how Suki has adapted and changed this soon since the birth has warmed his heart in a way that is unexplainable."

"Rob wants more children, and once Suki has the same idea, he is keen to try for another as soon as she is ready. They are having a really fun time being parents and it feels like second nature to them," the source added. As per er 'Female First UK', Suki confirmed the tot's birth by sharing a picture on Instagram of her cradling the baby. She captioned the image: "Welcome to the world angel". **—IANS**